

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 10, 2019

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

We request that you immediately demand Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta's resignation. As you know, Jeffrey Epstein was indicted on July 8, 2019 by federal prosecutors in the Southern District of New York for sex trafficking and leading a conspiracy to traffic underage girls for commercial sex acts. The indictment, like the years of public reports, shows that Epstein "created a vast network of underage victims for him to sexually exploit in locations including New York and Palm Beach." As the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, where Epstein exploited dozens of girls, Secretary Acosta severely mishandled Epstein's case by secretly arranging an extremely lenient plea deal, showing an utter disregard for the law and those he was charged with representing. Because of his central role in this miscarriage of justice, Secretary Acosta has no place serving as a top official in the Executive Branch enforcing our nation's laws.

Many of us made a similar request in a letter dated February 22, 2019. This new indictment prompts even greater urgency, reinforcing public reporting that Mr. Epstein, a billionaire with deep political connections, was able to escape responsibility despite being accused of molesting and trafficking over 80 girls and young women since the early 2000s. In an article published by the *Miami Herald* last November, several women gave detailed accounts of being lured to Epstein's Palm Beach mansion and forced to have sex with him or other men who came to his home. After Epstein had been arrested, multiple women were intimidated by Epstein and his staff and told not to talk to the police, which led to many victims remaining silent.

Despite abundant evidence and multiple witnesses still willing to come forward, then-U.S. Attorney Acosta failed to charge Epstein under federal trafficking laws, which could have put Epstein away for life. Instead, Epstein pleaded guilty to lesser charges and received a shockingly light sentence: only 13 months in a private wing of a county jail, from which he was able to leave 6 days a week for 12 hours at a time. Shockingly, this lax plea deal included a non-prosecution agreement that shut down other investigations and granted immunity to potential co-conspirators. This injustice was arranged by Acosta and showed no respect for the suffering of the victims and credible accounts of sexual violence and human trafficking.

Additionally, as the recent ruling from the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida found, none of the 36 victims who had come forward were consulted during the negotiating of


this plea deal and therefore were not able to exercise their right under the Crime Victims' Rights Act to object or be notified of any court proceedings. Victims were told to be "patient" while the FBI continued to investigate. When in reality, Acosta's team was deep in the process of negotiating with the defense. In fact, emails discovered as part of the *Miami Herald* investigation showed that the defense and prosecutorial team communicated frequently, sometime using private emails, and that the defense often dictated the terms of the agreement, citing Epstein's displeasure. Further, Acosta himself stated that Epstein's legal team had intimidated him to not take the case to trial and investigated him and his team to disqualify them from the case.

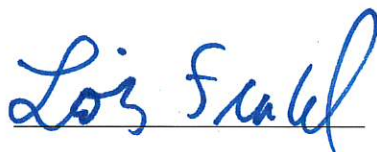
Epstein has not shown remorse for his actions and continues to display a flagrant disregard for the law, possibly because he was able to evade responsibility with help from Secretary Acosta. Notably, when the new indictment was unsealed, a cache of nude and sexually suggestive photos of young-looking women and girls was discovered during a search of Epstein's New York mansion.

As Members of Congress, we are committed to ensuring that those who occupy top positions in the federal government are held to the highest standards of the law. We strongly believe that Secretary Acosta was negligent in his duty to represent the best interests of the victims and the U.S. Government, and his role obliterates any credibility with enforcing our anti-trafficking and other laws. As such, we request that you immediately demand his letter of resignation.


Sincerely,

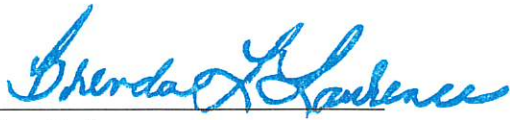

Jackie Speier
Member of Congress


Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

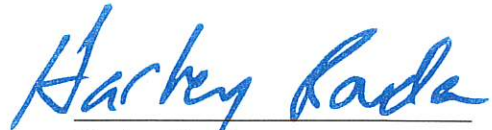

Lois Frankel
Member of Congress


Haley Stevens
Member of Congress


Katherine Clark
Member of Congress



Brenda Lawrence
Member of Congress



Harley Rouda
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress




Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



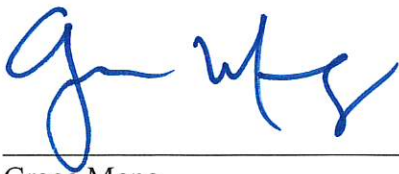
Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Member of Congress



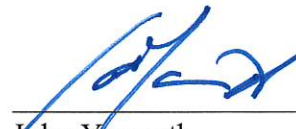
Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress



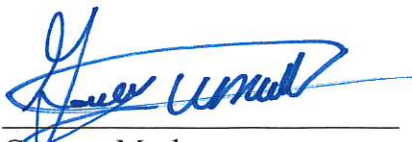
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



John Yarmuth
Member of Congress



Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress



Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Deb Haaland
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



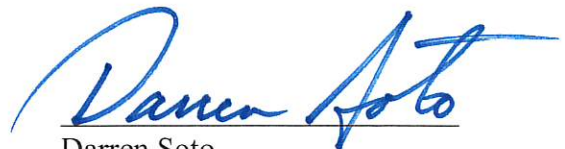
Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



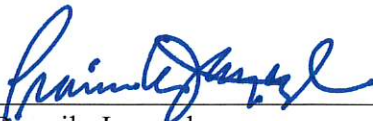
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



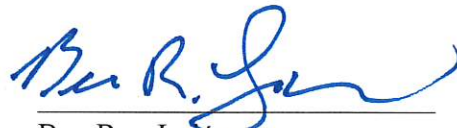
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



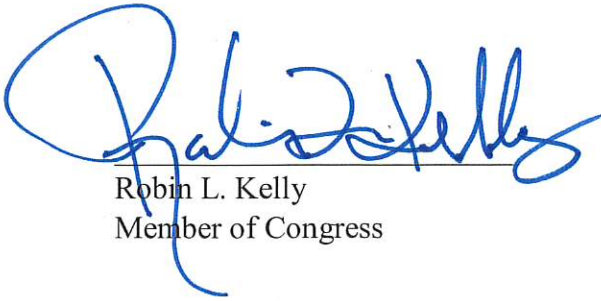
Raul Grijalva
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



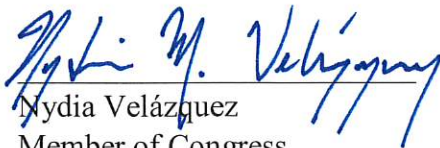
Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Nydia Velázquez
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



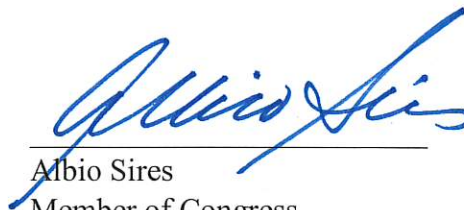
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Gilbert R. Cisneros Jr.
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress




Don Beyer
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



Max Rose
Member of Congress

Anthony Brown
Member of Congress



Susan Wild
Member of Congress

José E. Serrano
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



Andy Levin
Member of Congress